

Town Topics

Italians Roll Out Rug Show Carpet

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By Marie McNair

IN AN ANCIENT CASTLE in the tiny Italian village of Sarmoneta, a score of Italian girls work at rug making from modern designs of Latin American artists. They were organized, trained and supervised by Gloria Finn who divides her time between Washington and Italy.



Mrs. McNair

There are 15 of these rugs on exhibit now and until February 14 at the Pan American Union, and on opening day which was Monday, three were already sold.

Washington supporters of Handcraft International which is the name for the Italian artisans, include Rep. Frank Thompson, Mrs. Gates Lloyd and Oscar Cox, who's a director.

The Italian Ambassador, Sergio Fenoaltea, and the U. S. Ambassador to Italy, Frederick Reinhardt, are honorary chairmen. Yesterday the Italian Ambassador and Signora Fenoaltea gave a late-day cocktail party to celebrate the opening of the exhibition in Washington.

Former Attorney General and Mrs. Francis Biddle were there because of a relationship with Sarmoneta. Mrs. Biddle's sister owns the castle where the rugs are woven.

Mrs. Stanley Reed, talking with Mrs. George Y. Wheeler felt a special kinship when she discovered they were both from the South, the former from Kentucky, the latter from New Orleans.

Mme. Nehru, wife of the Indian Ambassador B. K.

Nehru, left to pick up her husband at the chancery. They're going to New York today for the opening of "Passage to India" the play that opened in Oxford, England and had a long run in London. Ambassador and Mme. Nehru will see the play with Lady Rama Rau.

Mrs. Oscar Cox was there and also Donna Julia Brambilla, Mrs. Raymond Tardiere, Sen. Kenneth Keating and Mme. d'Amecourt, and Rep. John Brademas and Rep. Robert Giaimo.

George West of the State Department, not long back from Paris, said he has now taken over as head of the office of Western European Affairs.

And a familiar face missing a few years from the Washington scene was Aeron Pizzoni-Ardemani, formerly of the Italian Embassy who is now special assistant to the president of Underwood Corporation for International Affairs. Underwood's Foreign Minister has jokingly called.